

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment presents the changes identified above, and is further responsive in any other manner indicated below.

AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended to identify related prior applications from which benefit is claimed in the present application under §120, and the Abstract has been amended to delete reference numerals. No new matter is added.

PENDING CLAIMS

Original Claim 1 is pending in the application, and original Claims 2-16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. At entry of this paper, Claim 1 remains pending.

Applicant respectfully informs the Office that additional claims for entry and examination in the present continuation will be filed shortly in a Second Preliminary Amendment. If the Examiner is ready to take up the present continuation for examination on the merits and such additional claims have not been submitted in this case, before any examination on the merits, the undersigned would appreciate receiving a telephone contact from the Examiner indicating same.

CLAIMS FOR PRIORITY UNDER 35 USC §119 AND 120

The present application claims priority under §119 of JP 8-187972 filed 18 July 1996. The certified copy of the priority document was filed with the original parent Application No. 08/896,762 on 18 July 1997. Applicant respectfully requests

written acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority in the present continuation.

The present application claims benefit under §120 of US Application No. 10/098,409 filed 18 March 2002, US Application No. 09/614,773 filed 12 July 2000 (US 6,382,505 B1), and US Application No. 08/896,762 (US 6,189,782 B1). The specification has been amended to identify all of the prior applications upon which benefit is claimed under §120. Applicant respectfully requests written acknowledgment of the claim for domestic benefit in the present continuation.

ASSIGNEES OF ENTIRE INTEREST

HITACHI, LTD. and HITACHI VIDEO AND INFORMATION SYSTEM INC. are Assignees of entire interest in and to the present application by virtue of an Assignment dated 10 July 1997 and recorded in the USPTO on 18 July 1997 at Reel 8734, Frames 0542 *et seq.*

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

It is respectfully submitted that any and all claim amendments and/or cancellations submitted within this paper and throughout prosecution of the present application are without prejudice or disclaimer of any scope or subject matter. Further, Applicant respectfully reserves all rights to file subsequent related application(s) (including reissue applications) directed to any/all previously claimed limitations/features which have been subsequently amended or cancelled, or to any/all limitations/features not yet claimed, *i.e.*, Applicant continues (indefinitely) to maintain no intention or desire to dedicate or surrender any limitations/features of subject matter of the present application to the public.

EXAMINER INVITED TO TELEPHONE

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the local D.C. area number 703-312-6600, to discuss an Examiner's Amendment or other suggested action for accelerating prosecution and moving the present application to allowance.

CONCLUSION

This First Preliminary Amendment is being submitted concurrently with the present continuation and is therefore timely, so no Petition or fee is possible or required. Please charge any actual shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper to ATS&K Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing Case No. 566.35562CX3).

Respectfully submitted,



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